

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

**401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2009

7:42 p.m.

ATTENDING

Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Chandra Walker Holloway
Resa Levy
Wilma Holmes
Leticia Mederos
Larniece McKoy Moore
Regina L. Oldak
Sanjay Rai
Jocelyn Samuels
Jane Smith
Jaclyn Lichter Vincent

STAFF

Ruby V. Marcelo
Paula S. Rodgers
Judith Vaughan-Prather

GUEST

Amanda Partington, for Congresswoman
Donna Edwards' Office

ABSENT

Leila Aridi Afas
Ivonne C. Lindley
Manar Morales

I. CALL TO ORDER-APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES.....President Lichter Vincent

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by President Lichter Vincent.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Atterbeary and seconded by Commissioner McKoy Moore, the NACW Conference Agenda Planning Committee report was moved up so that Commissioner Levy who was filling in for Committee Chair Aridi Afas, could leave the meeting early as she was not feeling well. The Agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Atterbeary and seconded by Commissioner Levy, the Minutes of the September 23, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Amanda Partington, from Congresswoman Donna Edwards' office was introduced.

II. NACW CONFERENCE AGENDA PLANNING (CAP) COMMITTEE.....Levy

The following items were distributed to Commissioners:

- (1) Updated Fundraiser Packets
- (2) Sample Talking Points to use for making telephone contacts. At the September 23, 2009 CFW meeting, commissioners were asked to identify potential conference sponsors and to email suggestions and contact information to Commissioner Levy by the October CFW meeting.
- (3) Excel spreadsheet of potential contacts. Commissioners were asked to review this list to help identify representatives who are affiliated with the listed organizations.

Commissioners should let Commissioner Levy know if her assistance is needed in making the telephone contacts. Also, let Administrative Specialist Rodgers know if a personalized letter to the contact needs to be prepared. President Lichter Vincent asked that commissioners submit this information by the end of the week.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather commended the Conference Agenda Planning Committee for all its very hard work. She reported on the following:

- (1) Copies of a draft "Save the Date" notice for the 2010 Conference were distributed to commissioners and suggested revisions were made. The final notice will be posted on the NACW website and mailed out with the annual NACW membership drive.
- (2) The Memorandum of Understanding is being settled between the County Attorney's Office and the NACW Board members.
- (3) Staff has been in touch with representatives in the Department of Labor Women's Bureau and is drafting a NACW proposal for funding.
- (4) The letter asking the chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues to host a briefing and/or luncheon on Capitol Hill is being finalized. The letter will also be sent to Montgomery County's Congressional delegation with copies to Commissioners Mederos and Oldak. Discussions are underway with MCDOT to determine if it may provide transportation for the conferees' visit to Capitol Hill.
- (5) The next CAP meeting will be November 18, 2009 at 6 p.m.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT..... President Vincent

A. Bylaws Revision

The revised Bylaws discussed at the September 23, 2009 CFW meeting were presented.

Commissioner Cryor Baldwin directed her comments to the last sentence in Article X (*Meetings and Attendance*), Section 4 that read “Members must be physically present at a meeting for their participation to be considered as fulfilling the attendance requirements of this section.” She expressed concern about commissioners not being able to participate in CFW meetings by telephone, especially she said, in light of today’s technology making it convenient to do so.

Executive Director Vaughan-Prather pointed out that this issue has come up previously. The County Attorney’s Office has always maintained that the intent of the county’s law is that members must be physically in attendance at boards, commissions and committee meetings in order to be counted as having attended that meeting. It was encouraged that the Bylaw be maintained since the county already allows three absences per year.

Following extensive discussion on the issue, Commissioner Samuels moved that the last sentence of Article X, Section 4 be removed so that the attendance issue may be addressed as a policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oldak and passed by unanimous vote. Commissioners Walker Holloway and Samuels agreed to draft an attendance policy for the commissioners’ consideration.

The amended Bylaws will be voted on at the November 18, 2009 CFW meeting.

B. CFW and Executive Committee Meeting Schedule for November and December

There will not be an Executive Committee meeting in November. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will draft the November CFW meeting agenda. The November CFW meeting will take place on November 18, 2009. There will be no CFW Executive or full Commission meetings in December.

C. Maryland CFW Symposium

The Maryland CFW is hosting a Symposium, “Empowering Women in this Economy” on December 5, 2009 at Prince George’s County Community College. Former commissioner Tedi Osias is speaking on the Mothers and Poverty Agenda for Action Report. Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo has volunteered to staff an information table for CFW/CCC at the event. The Maryland CFW asked local CFWs to pledge \$50 as a “Special Commissions for Women Partner” for the symposium. Without objection, the commissioners consented to this partnership; staff will process the payment.

D. Community Action Team Infant Mortality Review Board

Commissioner Cryor Baldwin serves as the CFW liaison on this Board. The group met on October 27, 2009. President Vincent presented an overview of the MAP Report and she said that the group was impressed with the data presented.

President Vincent said that it was reported at this meeting that MCPS policy does not consider taking care of one’s sick child or taking the child to a doctor’s appointment, an excused absence for students. Staff will check into this and report back to the commissioners.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

A. Letter re Pay Equity to DLLR Secretary

A letter of congratulations was sent to Alexander Sanchez, the new Secretary of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations. The letter also encouraged Secretary Sanchez to meaningfully implement the pay disparity data collection as required by H.B. 1156.

CFW also sent a letter to Tom Perez congratulating him on his appointment and confirmation as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

B. Community Service Day

Approximately 15 costumes and goodie collection bags were donated by commissioners and staff for the children of Flower Valley Elementary School. Commissioner Holmes, on behalf of the children, extended heartfelt appreciation to everyone who participated in the Community Service Day drive and agreed to send CFW photos of the costumed children on parade.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Mothers and Poverty Policy Agenda (MAPPA).....Smith

(1) Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) - MCCFW was well-represented at the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Fall Conference held October 17, 2009. Commissioner Morales presented the Family Responsibilities Discrimination Act. Other proposals presented included:

- Increasing child care subsidies
- Protection from re-abuse
- Sex crimes
- Unemployment insurance

(2) Community Outreach - MAPPA has been receiving a number of speaker requests from organizations asking to be briefed on the Mothers and Poverty Agenda for Action. Plans are underway to present the MAP report findings to the County's delegation to the Maryland General Assembly and to the Women's Caucus to the Maryland General Assembly.

(3) HHS/Education Committee Joint Worksession - On October 22, 2009, the County Council's Health and Human Services Committee and Education Committee met to discuss child care subsidies and other recommendations from the Mothers and Poverty

Agenda for Action. The next worksession will be held on November 12. Commissioner Rai reported that Montgomery College was asked to attend the November 12 worksession to make a presentation in response to the MAP Report.

B. Women's Legislative BriefingAtterbeary

To date, 57 co-sponsors have signed on to the 2010 Women's Legislative Briefing. On October 19, 2009, the WLB Program Committee met at CFW to discuss workshops. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather announced that the proposed reduced registration fee for students will not be implemented--all attendees will pay one fee. The next WLB Committee meeting is November 4, 2009.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Commissioner Atterbeary said that she received a personal invitation to a November 8, 2009 10:00 a.m. service at the Clinton African Methodist Zion Church in Rockville which is hosting a program focusing on women's issues.
- B. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather reported that the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships is hosting a "Faithfulness Together" program on November 22, 2009 focusing on how the faith community is addressing the issue of poverty. Commissioner Smith is serving as a panelist representing the MAPPA Committee. Commissioner Walker Holloway is planning to attend and others are invited to attend as well. The program will take place 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Greenridge Baptist Church in Clarksburg.

VII. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. Divorce Guidebook

Staff is working on the Spanish language version of "A Women's Guide to Surviving the Legal Process of Separation and Divorce in Maryland." The English guide was given to commissioners who requested copies.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**